MMR_0050 G. William Hammer

MMR No. 50

G. WILLIAM HAMMER
7421 Arlington Blvd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

Bill Hammer is 51 years of age and a Virginian by choice. He and his daughter, Jane, live in Fairfax County, just outside of the city of Falls Church. Bill is an attorney practicing in Falls Church, where he also serves as one of the General District Court Judges.

He has been a model railroader since 1952, joining the NMRA in 1956, and holds Life Member No. 3. He has been a member of the Mid-Eastern Region since 1958 and holds Life No. 25. He has served the MER as Vice-President from 1962 to 1964; as President from 1964 to 1966; and as a Director from 1968 to date. At the National Level Bill has served on the Estate Counseling Committee from 1962 to 1965, and as Chairman from 1965 to date. He has served on the Legal Committee from 1963 to 1965, and as Chairman from 1965 to date. He also served as Eastern Vice President from 1969 to 1972.

Bill first began model railroading as an S gauger, namely, tinplate. This rapidly gave way to HO in 1953. He joined the Northern Virginia Model Railroad club in 1955 where he remained a member until 1964. During that period his interest moved into narrow gauge in early 1958, and once bitten he has remained a narrow gauger ever since. In 1963 he had an opportunity to get into the scale of his first love, On3. In 1964 he made the complete change over, and along with two others formed the Virginia Narrow Gauge Association, where he is still a member. This is a club constituting four home layouts, and meetings are rotated to a different pike each Tuesday night.

Bill's special interest is probably scratch building, which was one of the lures of narrow gauge, although this has been much curtailed by NMRA activities, and the call of the wild each year when deer season opens. He holds Achievement Certificates for Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Chief Dispatcher, Association Official, Association Volunteer, and Model Railroad Author. His other NMRA activities have included attending 15 National Conventions and so many Regional Conventions that he has lost count.